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law ; how land was tilled, trade was directed, fortunes were secured, and justice was administered ; the customs of the people on their work-days and feast-days, at weddings and at burials, in time of peace, of war, and of pestilence ; the act, the thought, and the spirit of the nation, — are all graphically presented in Dr. Edersheim's story. The enthusiasm of the writer is surpassed by his copious fidelity.

Some of the sketches of character are admirable. Rabbi Akiba is the historian's favorite, and his gifts and virtues are set forth in glowing language. The rival schools of Hillel and Shammai are sharply contrasted, and there is no lack of candor in dealing with those Rabbins who distinguished themselves by the fiercest hatred of the Christians. Dr. Edersheim fails most, we think, in his estimate of Josephus ; and his account of Philo and the Alexandrine school, though quite full, is not quite satisfactory. In local and geographical matters, he generally adopts the views of the Talmud in preference to those of the Christian historians ; while he is rather too anxious to thrust back Christian dogmas into the theology of the ante-Christian age. He presses too far the typical character of the Hebrew religion, — farther than a fair interpretation of the Scriptures will sustain him.

A second volume, which shall give the mediæval and modern history of the Jews, is announced as in preparation. When that shall appear, we hope to take in this Review a more extended notice of so valuable a work.

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8. — *A Journey through Texas ; or, A Saddle Trip on the Southwestern Frontier, with a Statistical Appendix.* By FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED. New York : Dix, Edwards, & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. 550.

THE object and the teaching of the second volume of Mr. Olmsted's travels in the Slave States seem to be those of the previous volume. It is a clear and satisfactory demonstration of the practical evils of the slave institution, economical, moral, and social. He has here, however, a chance which he admirably improves, to show the superiority of free labor over slave labor even in a Southern State. The German colonies of Texas, which he describes with minute fidelity, are a living refutation of the assertion that white men cannot work under a Southern sun, and that the culture of cotton requires the forced labor of black men. The solid statistics which Mr. Olmsted has gathered needed only such a supplement to their abundance. We believe that the wide circulation of these volumes of the "American Farmer" will do more to enlighten public opinion and to hasten emancipation than any passionate speeches

or any works of fiction, however exciting and pathetic. They are calm, candid, and impartial in their statements, leaving the reader to draw the inevitable inference. There is about them all a judicial accuracy which constrains confidence.

Beside this crowning merit of Mr. Olmsted's work, it has all the qualities of an interesting journal of travel. A good many books have been written about Texas, histories of conquest and colonization, narratives of survey and adventure, grave and gay and thrilling; but none, on the whole, is so thoroughly readable as this *Saddle Trip*. It combines graphic description with careful observation, facts with impressions, personal details with general views, good sense with enthusiasm, in a remarkable degree. It corrects false notions of a region and people unjustly handled in the proverbial speech of the North. Mr. Olmsted evidently likes Texas, and hopes more from it than from any other Southern State. His travel extended over all its principal sections; he visited most of the larger towns, saw all the great rivers and all the varieties of soil, tried its fluctuations of wind and climate, made himself acquainted with all classes, from the legislators of Austin to the Lipan Indians, and all races, Yankees, Creoles, Germans, and Mexicans, tested its pretensions, its difficulties, and its risks; and his verdict, on the whole, is favorable and cheering. A great future is in store for that region, if by any means it can be saved from the blight of slavery.

Joined to the narrative are a carefully prepared map and a valuable Appendix, and prefixed is a letter to a friend on the subject of slavery, which gives, in temperate but firm language, the necessary conclusion of the whole matter.

9. — *Prue and I*. By GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS. New York: Dix, Edwards, & Co. 1856. 12mo. pp. 214.

THE separate sketches under this name, first published in Putnam's Magazine, are now gathered into a most genial little book. An English critic pronounces it "an imitation of Charles Lamb"; but we have failed to discover any other resemblance than that naturally arising between two writers who have the power of clothing keen satire in genial words, and mingling the deepest pathos with the merriest humor. Without any pompous pretence of morality, this pleasant little book has a ministry of its own, which will make it dear to many readers. It must have already found welcome at many a fireside. Wherever there are tender hearts and kindly natures, the reveries and speculations of the quaint little bookkeeper will interest and please. Wherever, especially,